

Flogging is considered in the leather kink and fetish communities as one of the most common BDSM physical activities; however, it is fast becoming one of our most important lost arts.

The Art of Flogging

101 Demonstration



Presenter: Sir Isaac Wesley
Ottawa Knights

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Introduction

A typical multi-tail flogger may look like these ones



Flogging is considered in the leather kink and fetish communities as one of the most common BDSM physical activities; however, it is fast becoming one of our most important lost arts. It is considered a type of impact play. Typically, it involves a top or master to repeatedly and regularly strike the upper back, thighs, or buttocks of a physically restrained or immobile bottom or slave with a swinging motion using a flogger.

It is distinct from paddling, slapping, caning, whipping or cropping in a number of ways:

1. A wide range of floggers are available, varying in: length and thickness of the tails, the material from which the tails are made, and the number of tails in the flogger compared an single strike with hands, canes, whips or crops.
2. The variety allows for a very wide range of sensations and experiences.
3. There are a large number of tails, which are soft and flexible depending on the leather hide being used. Rubber, hair and latex floggers are now also popular in the BDSM community.

The Flogger

A flogger typically consists of a handle from which extends a large number of soft tails of plastic, rubber, latex, hair, or leather tails. The tails are typically around half meter in length or 16 inches. Most floggers also have a pommel on the end of the handle away from the tails for balance. Balanced floggers are invaluable as we will see later in this article.

The tails are usually soft and flexible, and because they tend to strike the bottom all at the same time, they can create two different experiences for the bottom depending on the tail material and the tail length:

- Thud Strike is a heavy but distributed impact on the bottom. Instead of a sharp pain, per se, the bottom experiences a thud or thump which they may feel throughout the part of the body which is struck. Thudding, as we call this strike, mainly occurs on the upper back of the bottom.
- Sting Strike using a slightly lighter flogger, is instead a localised sharp pain experienced usually just at the impact site.

Note that the intensity of the thud or sting will vary depending on how much force is used to swing the flogger or the actual size, composition or weight of the flogger.

Role in sensation play

Please note that lighting, location and background music can seal the deal or ruin this type of play as these affect our five senses, touch, smell, taste, sound and sight. Beyond the impact aspect of its use, the tails of a flogger can be draped over or dragged across the skin as part of sensation play. This action can take place on all parts of the body. It is also important when changing from one flogger to another. Sometimes this is done before or during a flogging scene to increase expectation of upcoming strokes.

We can divide sensation play into two types:

1. Activities which add or modify sensations
2. Activities which diminish or remove sensations (sometimes known as sensory deprivation)

It's useful to note that four out of the five senses are focused around the head (smell, taste, sound and sight). This means that a lot of effective sensation play can be done without going below the neck. (We call these head games)

Symbolically sensation play can be very powerful because it compels the slave or bottom to surrender to exactly and only the experiences that which their partner either allows or denies them. Sensation play is often combined with some form of bondage or restraint to prevent the submissive from doing anything (such as removing a blindfold by movement of their hands involuntarily) which might allow them to control the experience themselves.

Characteristics of floggers

- Used with one hand and possibly two hands with a fogger in each
- Soft and flexible tails
- Tails are typically a maximum of one meter or 16 inches long
- Use is typically restricted to the back, other fleshy parts of the anatomy or rear end

Other characteristics

- Material from which the tails are made
- Length of the tails (16 inches to 26 inches)
- The number of tails. An average flogger contains 24 tails
- The width or diameter of each tail (1/4 "is the normal)
- The shape of the end of each tail
- The weight and number of the tails
- Balance of the flogger (related to the position and weight of the pommel)
- Colour

Techniques

Horizontal flogging

Floggers can be applied in a large variety of ways.

- Draped
 - When the flogger is held above the bottom and the tails are draped over or dragged across the skin of the bottom. There is no impact involved in this, and it is sometimes used as part of a warm-up or during pauses between heavier strokes or changing floggers. This use can be considered a type of sensation play.
- Inserted
 - Where the pommel end of the flogger is inserted sexually in the vagina or rectum of the bottom.
- Rapid
 - Where the flogger is swung against the bottom in a figure-8 or circular pattern so the strokes hit in rapid succession.
- Paced
 - Where each strike is preceded by a pause---for psychological effect (to build up expectation), to prepare the flogger, or to select and aim for a different part of the body. Rapid flogging tends to be lighter than that which can be applied in a paced manner.

As well as the above, a flogger can be used:

- Horizontally
 - Perhaps best against the buttocks and thighs of someone standing.
- Vertically
 - Striking downwards.

Targets

The safe targets

- The area around the shoulder blades and the upper middle of the back
- The buttocks
- The back and front of the thighs

Mini floggers can be used on the breasts of both male and female bottoms if a heart condition does not exist.

Avoid

- The centre of the back near the spine. Fleshier bottoms may be able to take some light logging in this area.
- Soft tissue anywhere, especially under the ribs, lower back where the bladder is located and anywhere near the heart
- Joints
- The head, neck, and face

Completion

Completion of the bottom occurs through

- The sensations and/or pain caused by the impact of the flogger
- The rate, rhythm, or irregularity of the strokes
- The associated touch or caresses of the top
- The words spoken by the top, their volume, their rate, their intonation and any gestures
- The facial expression of the dominant (if visible to the bottom); also posture, visible tension, physical attitude, sexual arousal (if visible to the bottom)
- Smell or odours from the top; e.g., sweat, sexual arousal; also smell of leather or other smells related to the flogger itself

- Other noises made by the top could be grunts, groans, moans, sounds of breathing, change in rate and depth of breathing, sounds made while working such as manipulating implements, packing and unpacking floggers, cleaning sounds, foot movements, adjusting clothes and so on...

Completion of the top occurs through

- The bottom writhing, wriggling, cringing, added exposer, willingness to communicate readiness for more, shaking, twitching, physically relaxing and becoming tense,
- Words spoken by the bottom, their rate, intonation, their volume, their gestures and very importantly, safe words,
- Other noises made by the bottom, such as moans, groans and screams,
- Facial expressions made by the bottom,
- Physical response signals from the bottom such as a change of skin colouration (such as reddening), sweat, change in heart rate, change in breathing pattern (such as gasping, depth of breathing, rate of breathing),
- Smell or odours from the bottom; e.g., sweat, sexual arousal

References:

<http://www.peter-masters.com/wiki/index.php/Flogging>

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<http://www.officerwes.com/leatherspirit.htm>